

CONFIDENTIAL

Security 4-3

7 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Mapping, Charting and
Geodesy, DIAMC

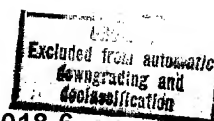
SUBJECT: Dissemination Control of the AMS 1:50,000
Map Series on China

1. It is requested that you initiate action to remove the control dissemination on the AMS 1:50,000 map series of China. Currently, it reads "For Use of Officials of the Governments of the Republic of China and U.S. Only."

2. The U.S. academic community's growing interest in China is creating an increased demand for large and medium-scale topographic maps of that area for use in scholarly research. Inquiries for information on the availability of such map coverage are received by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Coordinator for Maps in the Department of State, the Library of Congress, and, no doubt, by the Army Map Service and other Department of Defense mapping elements. Requests for medium scale coverage can well be met by appropriate referrals to the many AMS depositories at universities and libraries throughout the U.S. Academic researchers requiring large scale coverage, however, are effectively denied access to the valuable AMS 1:50,000 scale series by the dissemination control which was presumably imposed as part of the original joint U.S. and Republic of China mapping agreement back in the 1940's. These maps provide the only, good, unclassified large-scale coverage of the provinces of eastern China.

3. There is a paucity of information on mainland China and researchers are handicapped by a lack of even basic references; this handicap is even more apparent to non-Government researchers who do not have access to classified information held by the Government. The availability of the AMS 1:50,000 map series would

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encourage and improve research in geography, economics, transportation, agriculture and other fields, many of which are of both military and intelligence interest.

4. Removal of the restrictions on the maps need not lead to indiscriminate dissemination to the public. Controls such as are currently applied to the release of the AMS 1:250,000 scale maps would be appropriate, and permit the maps to be retained by AMS repositories. The repositories would provide adequate geographic distribution of the maps and provide for minimum control.

JAMES A. BRANDELL

Director

Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Distribution:

O&I - Addressee

1 - Coordinator for
Academic Relations, ODDI

1 - Ch/MLD/BGI

2 - OD/OBGI

D/OBGI: [REDACTED] :mjc/2633

(6 December 1967)

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